

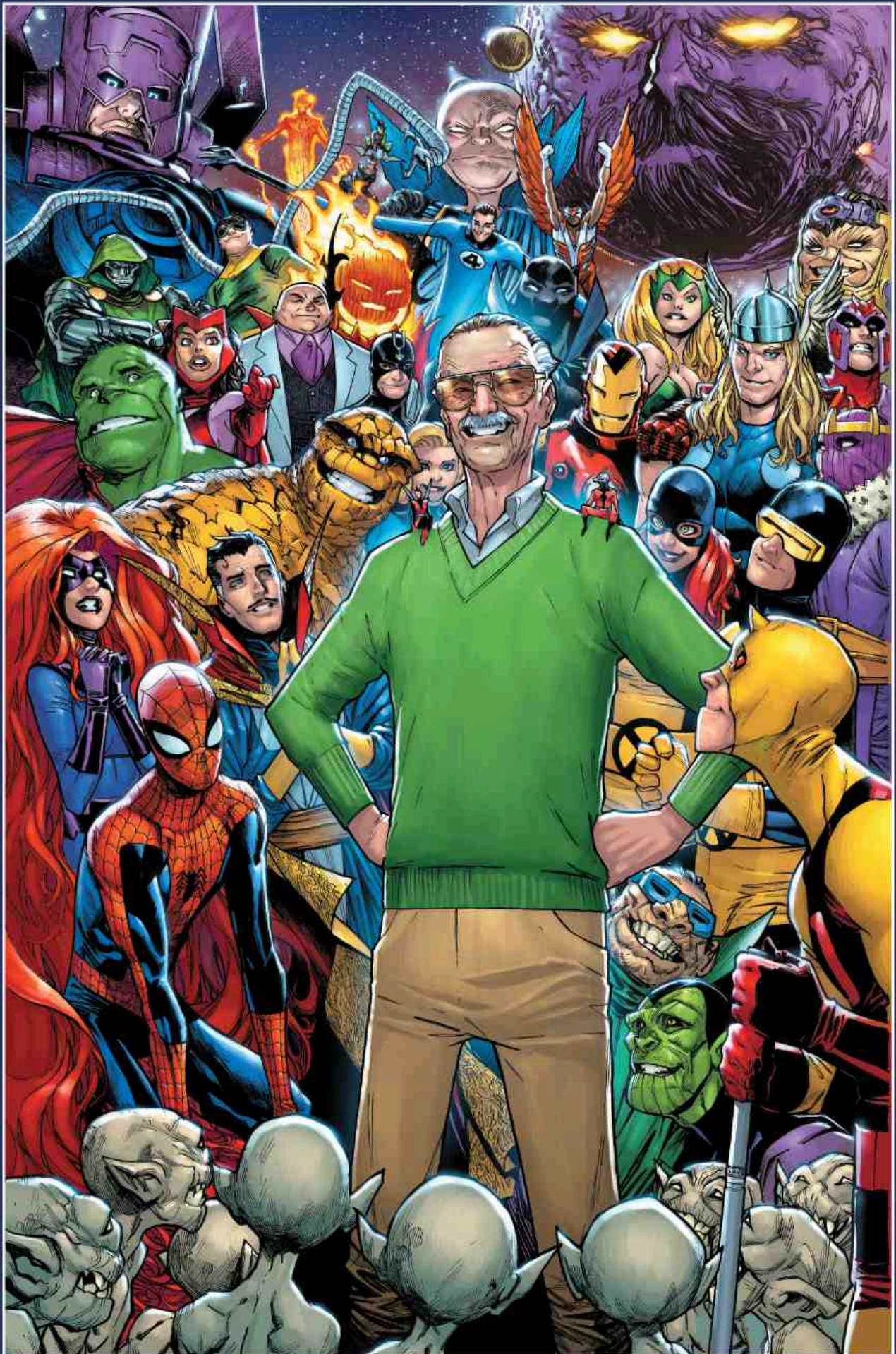
MARVEL 5

THE LAST STAND OF THE **THUNDERBOLTS**[®]



**ZUB
IZAAKSE
DIAZ
NAVA
TARTAGLIA**

100 YEARS AND STILL INSPIRING US ALL



WE LOVE YOU, STAN!

THUNDER BOLTS

"BACK ON TARGET"

AS MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY, LUKE CAGE HAS PUT TOGETHER A NEW TEAM OF THUNDERBOLTS LED BY HAWKEYE. BETWEEN EXCESSIVE PROPERTY DAMAGE AND DISCORD AMONG MEMBERS, THOUGH, THE TEAM'S HAD MORE LOSSES THAN VICTORIES. EVEN MORE CONCERNING HAS BEEN THE SERIES OF INCREASINGLY NONSENSICAL AND DISTORTED VERSIONS OF EVENTS THAT HAWKEYE HAS EXPERIENCED AS THE OTHERWORLDLY TERMINUS COMES DOWN TO DESTROY THE CITY...NEVER MIND TEAM MANAGER HELEN DISCOVERING A NONRESPONSIVE CLINT BARTON SUSPENDED MIDAIR IN HIS APARTMENT.

**JIM
ZUB**
WRITER

**SEAN IZAAKSE &
NOLAN WOODARD**
COVER ARTISTS

**SEAN IZAAKSE
WITH NETHO DIAZ**
PENCILERS

**STEFANO CASELLI &
FEDERICO BLEE**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

**SEAN IZAAKSE
WITH VICTOR NAVA**
INKERS

ANTHONY GAMBINO
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

**JAVA
TARTAGLIA**
COLORIST

MICHELLE MARCHESE
ASSISTANT EDITOR
WIL MOSS
EDITOR

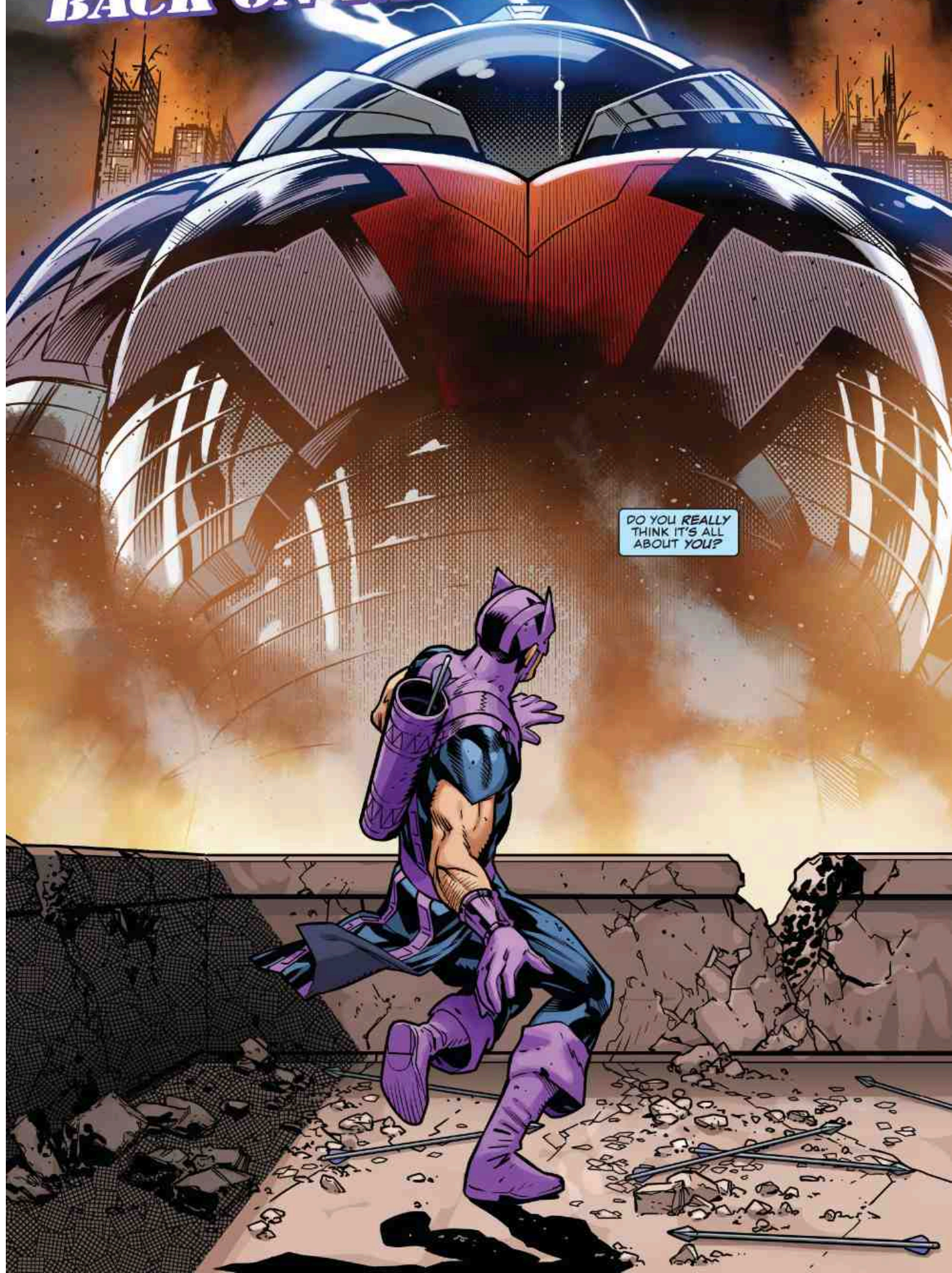
**VC's JOE
SABINO**
LETTERER

TOM BREVOORT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

© 2023 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

THUNDERBOLTS BACK ON TARGET

DO YOU REALLY
THINK IT'S ALL
ABOUT YOU?





I...

...I DON'T KNOW.

I TRY TO THINK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE... HELP THEM...



THAT'S WHAT YOU TELL EVERYONE, BUT WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE JUST SELFISH.

YEAH.

JUST TRYIN' TO PROVE I'M WORTH A DAMN.

PROVE IT TO THE WORLD... PROVE IT TO MYSELF.



YOU TOOK ON TOO MUCH AND NOW YOU'VE FAILED.

I GUESS IT JUST RUNS IN THE FAMILY.

CURSE OF THE KILLGRAVE.



DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD ESCAPE YOUR PAST?

ESCAPE? NO...

...I'LL NEVER BE FREE FROM THE DAMAGE I'VE DONE...

...THE LIVES I'VE TAKEN.



YOU'RE A MONSTER.

YES.

EEGRO IS A MONSTER...

...EVEN WHEN HE DENIES IT.



IT'S TIME TO END THIS PITIFUL EXISTENCE.

YEAH...

...DO IT.

WITH
PLEASURE!





EXCELLENT!

A SELF-
INFLICTED WOUND
ALWAYS BRINGS THE
MOST EXQUISITE
AGONY...

...IT'S THE
PERFECT FUEL
TO HELP CARRY
OUT MY GRAND
DESIGN.

N-N-
NIGHTMARE--

YES,
MS. CHAVEZ.

THE LORD
OF DARKNESS
HAS BEEN HERE ALL
ALONG, AND YOUR
POWER IS EVERYTHING
I HOPED IT
MIGHT BE.



STRENGTH,
STAMINA AND FLIGHT
ARE ALL QUITE IMPRESSIVE
IN THEIR OWN RIGHTS, BUT
YOUR ABILITY TO CREATE
PORTALS TO OTHER
DIMENSIONS IS TRULY
ADMIRABLE...

...AND
OH SO
DESIRABLE.

THE HORRIFIC
ENERGY WE'LL
GATHER FROM ACROSS
THE MULTIVERSE WILL
CREATE A NEW AGE OF
NIGHTMARES, ONE
STRONG ENOUGH TO
CONQUER EVERY
WAKING WORLD.

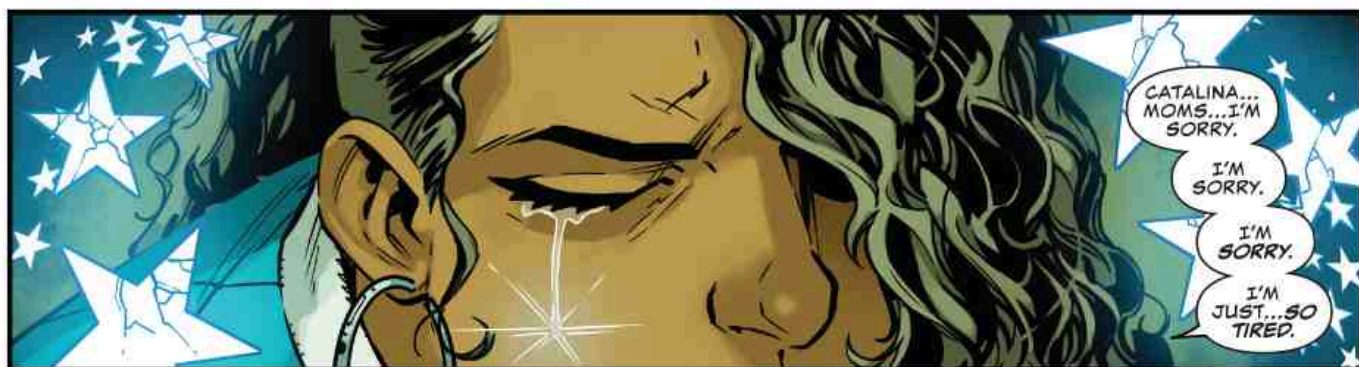
I...I DON'T
WANT TO HURT
ANYONE...

THAT'S
FINE, MY
DEAR.

YOU STAY IN
SLEEPY STASIS
UNDER MY CONTROL,
AND I'LL SERVE UP
GLORIOUS WAVES
OF PAIN...

...ESPECIALLY
TO YOUR FOOLISH
TEAMMATES.







AT FIRST,
I JUST WANTED
TO TORTURE
CLINT BARTON
AGAIN.

I WAS
STARTING TO
GET SOME DECENT
DESOLATE ENERGY
FROM THAT BOY WHEN
OTHER MACHINATIONS
GOT IN THE
WAY.*

*BACK IN AVENGERS: NO
ROAD HOME #2-3. --WIL



BUT THEN,
WHEN HE MOVED
BACK TO LOS
ANGELES, I
SAW YOU.**

A BEING OF
UNIQUE QUALITY
WHOM I HAD
NOT HAUNTED
BEFORE.

YOUTHFUL,
POWERFUL...

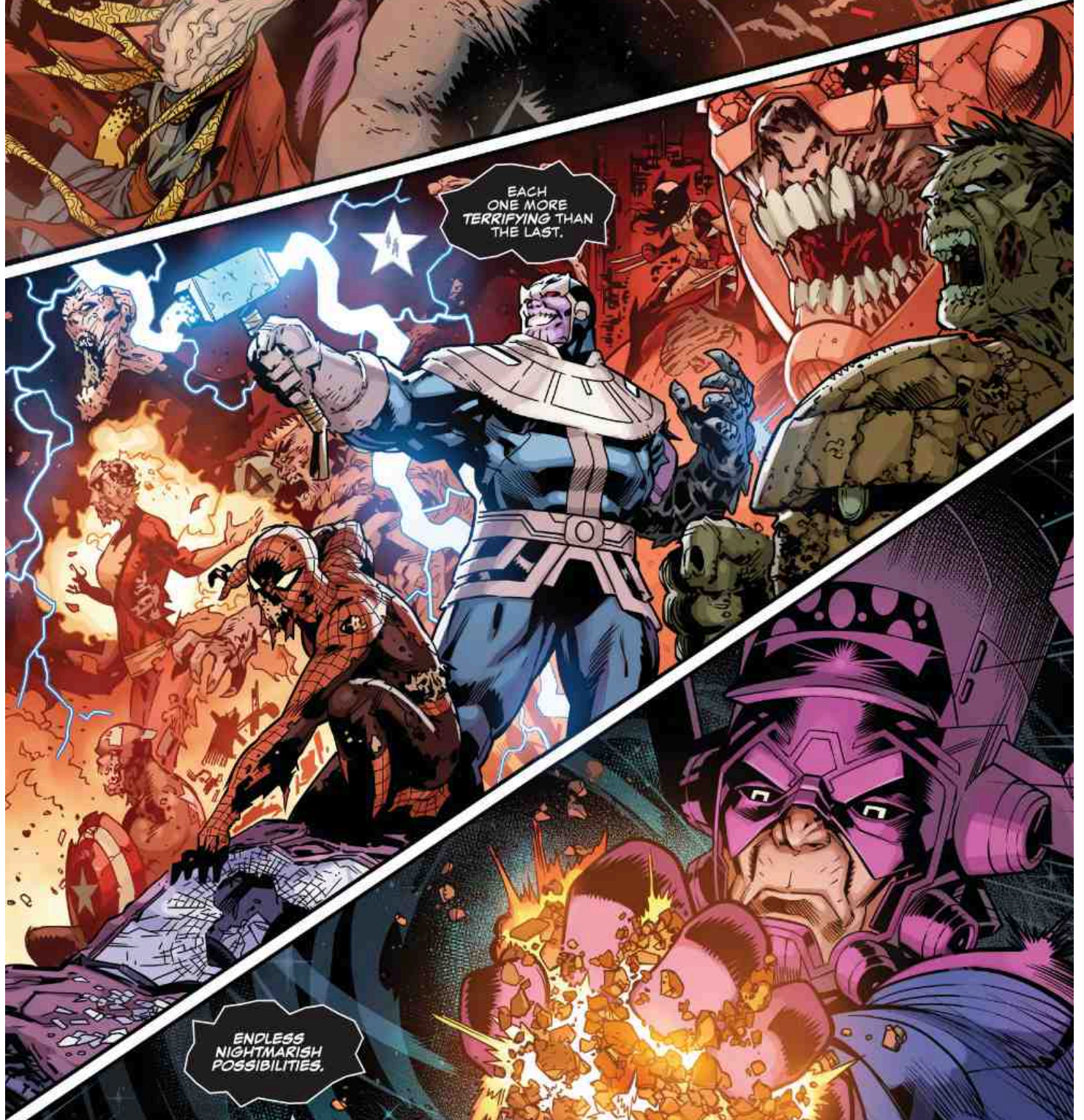
**WEST COAST
AVENGERS (2019)
#1-10. --WIL



IT TOOK TIME
TO WEAKEN YOUR
STAMINA AND ENCROACH
ON YOUR MIND, BUT IT
WAS WORTH THE
WAIT.

NOW, WITH
YOUR DIMENSION-
CROSSING ABILITIES
AT MY COMMAND, WE
CAN GO TO THE DARKEST
TIMELINES POSSIBLE,
AND I WILL ABSORB
EVERY SHRED OF
NIGHTMARE ENERGY
THEY PRODUCE...

...LIKE
THIS.









WHAT IS THIS?!



ENDLESS
POSSIBILITIES
INCLUDES A PLACE
WHERE WE'RE ALL
BACK TOGETHER
AND READY TO
TAKE YOU
DOWN.

OKAY,
TEAM...



...LET'S
BRING THE
THUNDER.





ENOUGH!!!

I AM NOT
SOME COSTUMED
CRIMINAL WHO CAN
BE BLUDGEONED
ABOUT IN SUCH
A FASHION!
MY POWER
COMES FROM THE
DARKEST THOUGHTS
IN EVERY MIND, AND
YOU CANNOT--

STOP.

YOU GOT
IN MY HEAD,
SO NOW I'M IN
YOURS.

!!!

YUP.

YOU TRIED TO
TAKE OUR FAVORITE
STAR-SLINGER AND
FAILED, SO NOW ALL
THAT'S LEFT IS FOR
YOU TO GO--

--TO
SLEEP.

ZZZZ--

TARGET
IS DOWN.

WELL
DONE.





SO...
SO?
LUKE CAGE
ASKED YOU TO
BE LEADER OF THE
THUNDERBOLTS
BEFORE ME.
HE TOLD
YOU?



NO.
YOU JUST
DID...
NICE.
...AND YOU
WOULD'VE BEEN
A BETTER
CHOICE.



NOT
A CHANCE,
CLINT.
I NEED TO
DO MORE WORK
ON MYSELF BEFORE
I'M READY TO HEAD
UP ANOTHER
TEAM.



SO WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING IS
THAT YOU THINK I'M
MORE QUALIFIED
THAN YOU?
NO, YOU
STILL SUCK, BUT
YOU'RE BETTER AT
FAKING COMPETENCY.
I CAN'T PLAY
PRETEND LIKE
THAT.
FAKE
IT TILL YOU
MAKE IT!
DO YOU
HONESTLY
BELIEVE THAT?

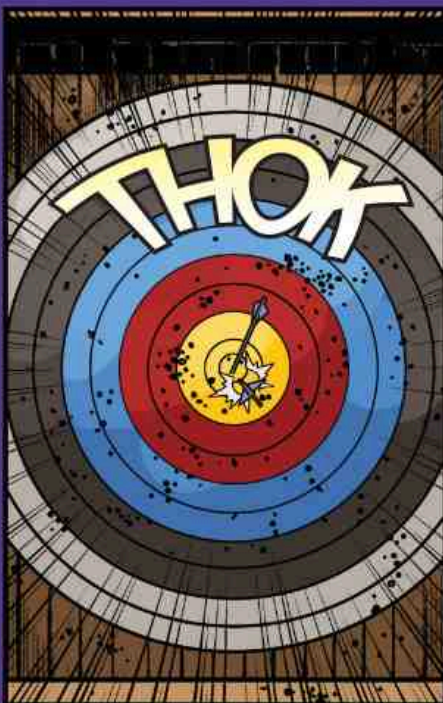
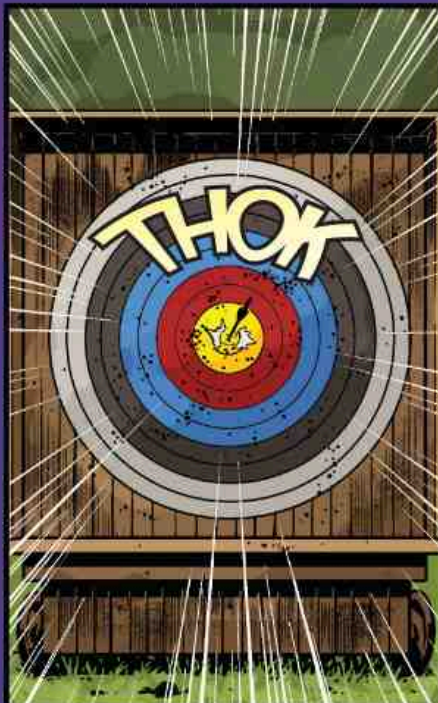


...NO.
I KNOW I'VE
SCREWED UP ALL
OVER THE PLACE...
BUT I CAN'T SOLVE
THAT ON MY
OWN.
I NEED OTHER
SCREWUPS CLOSE
BY TO REMIND ME
WHAT'S IMPORTANT AND
KEEP ME STRIVING
FOR SOMETHING
BETTER.

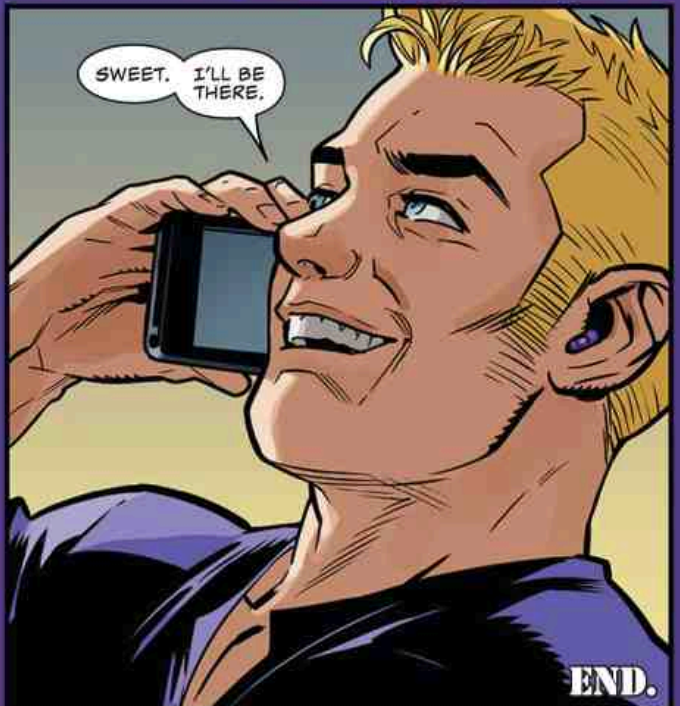


I'LL
DRINK TO
THAT.
CHEERS!

THE NEXT MORNING.







And that's a wrap on this volume of THUNDERBOLTS! The team will still be operating out there in the Marvel Universe, so keep your eyes peeled, and for more Monica specifically, make sure to pick up **MONICA RAMBEAU: PHOTON #1**, on sale now!



Thanks to everyone who wrote in to share their thoughts on Clint and company's adventures--we loved reading them! Here are a few from across the series:



Hi! I just wanted to say I loved the first issue! And the ending...WHAT IS HAPPENING?! Anyway, I'm so excited for this series! I'm a HUGE Clint fan, and I'm so happy to see him again and now leading a team! I'm really interested in seeing how this all goes after how HAWKEYE: FREEFALL ended.

Loving this!
Autumn



Finally, the Thunderbolts have returned! It's been a couple of years since the last THUNDERBOLTS book came out, and I must say that I missed the team. Thunderbolts will always have a special place in my heart, because I was there from the beginning. I still remember when I turned that fateful final page of the now classic first issue, my eyes opened in shock and surprise as the members of this supposedly fresh, young team were revealed to be... you know the story.

It's great to see that a new chapter is added to the team's rich history. It's awesome that Jim Zub and Sean Izaakse are back on the book. That means it is in good hands. The first issue was fun. I like that Hawkeye has returned as leader. The rest of the team--with the exception of longtime Avenger Monica Rambeau--is a bit of a blank page. I had hoped that more

members from the original lineup would come back. What are Jolt and Atlas up to? Where is Songbird? She was always one of my favorite characters. And whatever happened to Norbert Ebersol, A.K.A. the Fixer, A.K.A. Techno, A.K.A. Gutsen Glory. Wait, what? Could it be?

I loved the last page of issue #1, by the way. Hawkeye looking at his battered body, reminding us that he's only a man in a world filled with aliens, gods, mutants, and monsters. You know, that story of a human hero fighting with the fact that it's getting harder and harder to keep going, finally realizing that maybe the time has come to step away from all the insanity before it eats him up--that's a story that I would really like to read. And how honest and true and meaningful would it be if that character was Hawkeye?

Sincerely,
Lars Meyer



Hi Marvel,

I can't believe THUNDERBOLTS is more than halfway over! This team is so good, I need another series!

The way this book takes Hawkeye seriously as a character is great. I love how it depicts Clint's battle with his inner self, the way he tries to act up to his ideals even while his doubts and depression are trying to drag him down. Those two extremes in Hawkeye's personality have made him such a compelling character since the beginning. The fact that he's gone back to having a more circus-inspired costume (more mask, please!) serves to highlight this. All Clint really wants is to be the perfect super hero, and the fact that he's a human being with flaws (and that it doesn't make him less of a hero!) is something that he finds hard to accept.

Thank you so much for that last page! I love Bobbi, and she's been underused in comics for too long. She and Clint have had their issues individually and as a couple, but when they're at their best, they make each other shine. Bobbi has often been able to get Clint to see past his ego to focus on what's really important--it happened when they first met and we saw it again over the years during the WEST COAST AVENGERS and AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT days, and again in SECRET EMPIRE even though they were no longer a couple--and Clint encourages Bobbi to leave her comfort zone and gain new and enriching experiences. I don't know what the plan is for their relationship, but seeing Clint use the nickname "Birdie" and admit he needs her help was heartwarming.

Speaking of romance, it was so nice to see the scene with Monica and Adam. I love how their relationship is built on a foundation of friendship, and their communication and mutual respect is such a special thing in comics. I hope we get to

see more of their relationship in Monica's upcoming solo book!

Gutsen's speech made him more interesting to me, and I'm definitely curious about his background, and I hope America gets help with her powers fast! Can't wait until next issue.

Steph



I knew THUNDERBOLTS would be one of my favorite series from the day it got announced, and it didn't disappoint! I decided I was right from the first issue--it's never too soon. I'm enjoying the script, the art, the concept, colors and references... just everything! And I might be a gigantic Hawkeye fan, but I'm in love with the entire cast. Though the process of the Thunderbolts becoming a real team is understandably taking a while, it both concerns and gives me hope that this could lead to more.

Anyway, I'm so very excited for the rest, especially whatever you're cooking up with Clint and Bobbi! I'm going to hit send and then go back to my THUNDERBOLTS-screaming-and-crying session.

Thank you,
Amier



And hey, for all you Gutsen Glory fans out there, Jim Zub himself wrote up information about the big guy for this issue's trading card variant! While we're hoping y'all are picking up those variants (Stefano Caselli and the Marvel Bullpen have done some amazing work on them!), in case you're not, we wanted to provide that info for you here:

An enhanced cyber-soldier whose body has been transformed into a high-tech arsenal, the man now called "Gutsen Glory" ran clandestine missions for the U.S. government for over twenty years. Realizing his best days were behind him, Gutsen was offered the chance to go public and finish his tour of duty as part of Luke Cage's Thunderbolts redemption project. Looking for a dignified finish to his military career, he accepted the position but now wonders if he can handle the super-hero spotlight and all it entails.

Did you know: Gutsen's most powerful weapon, his Particle Rupture Laser, can only be fired once every ten minutes.

For his power rating info and to see Caselli's sweet art, you'll have to check out the variant itself! (Check with your retailer!)

Okay, thanks for reading! Until the next time that justice, like lightning, strikes...

Email us at **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

